MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
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THE
MAN-THING

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

RICHARD ASHFORD EDITOR
MICHAEL KRAIGER ASSISTANT EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY PAUL JOHNSON

MAN-THING

"BEHOLD THE MAN"
PART 2 OF 4

WRITER .....SIMON JOWETT
ARTIST .....PAUL JOHNSON
LETTERS .....ELLIE DeVILLE
COLORS .....PAUL JOHNSON

Ted Sallis is drawn deeper into the fear-crazed madness of the Muck-Monster, Man-Thing.

SPIDER-WOMAN

"THE GREAT AMERICAN MALL SHOOT-OUT"
PART 1 OF 3

WRITER .....NEL YOMTOV
PENCILS .....JOHN CZOP
INKS .....TIM DZON
LETTERS .....UL HIGGINS
COLORS .....FRANK LOPEZ

Seeking some down time, Julia Carpenter, A.K.A. Spider-Woman, heads to the mall, where she's almost shot down by a mysterious sniper.

NEXT ISSUE:

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

Dear MRP,

About a month ago I was in a comic book store when I noticed a familiar face in the upper left corner of MCP #159. "That can't really be him!" I thought, because I thought Marvel gave up trying to have funny characters when they cancelled THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK. About three weeks later, I saw the face again sharing the cover of MCP #161. Alright, I thought, I'll check it out.

Yes! It really is Slapstick! (This is probably the only letter you'll get saying that the writer recognized Slapstick.) I couldn't believe my eyes. I always thought he had a lot of potential. The scene in SLAPSTICK #4, where he tried to put the fire out on Ghost Rider's head, was a classic. Impossible Man was an added bonus.

Anyway, I'd like to see more of Slapstick. How about a Slapstick -- She-Hulk crossover? Maybe Slapstick could join a team of teen superheros.

There is only one problem I have with the storyline. In issue #159, why didn't Speedball recognize Slapstick? (They met in SLAPSTICK #4.) The only explanation I can think of is Speedball forgot about Slapstick in the chaos that ensued in issue #4, or that Speedball forgot about him intentionally because Slapstick defeated the Neutron Bum while Speedball and his friends were just standing around.

Well, until MCP publishes a feature without mentioning Wolverine, The Punisher, Ghost Rider or Vengeance, make mine Marvel!

Chris Nemec
Irving,TX

Well Chris, *Wolverine, Punisher, Ghost Rider, Vengeance* now that that is out of way. He either forgot in the chaos that ensued or it was a case of selective memory (Whether that of Speedball, or the writer, we couldn't say.) And while there are no plans for a Slapstick -- She-Hulk crossover, we do have a couple of She-Hulk stories in the works.

Dear Richard and Michael,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to MCP #160-161. Because this comic actually improves with every issue as you tinker with various techniques. Although what I feel this book may need is a complete overhaul in format, you're making the current one very successful. So without further ado, I'll write this letter in a more "typical" style; no numbers or grades.

The opening story, with the New Warriors, is my favorite. I'm pleased that you were able to lure Fabian Nicieza to write this story because he has always been a guiding force behind the Warriors. And this story is a fun one, and fun is an element sometimes missing from comics. Between Slapstick and Impossible Man alone, you would have a fantastic cast. And I'm pleased to say that the duo of Robert Walker and Scott Koblish are producing work as good as the work by Richard Pace, the Warriors' new regular artist. The time plot is interesting, as well. Great work in all, but as letter writer Chris Connelly mentioned, solo stories might be better than a team effort.

Then we have Hawkeye, and I was pleased with the wonderful art of Jerry DeCaire, with an assist from the able Joe Rubinstein. While Nel Yomtov's story seems to have lost any appeal, the artwork definitely carried this piece and I hope that Nel, as editor of the Force Works family, has plans afoot for the Hawk to fly once more.

(continued on cover three)

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TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY STEVE LIGHTLE
COLORS BY MARIANNE LIGHTLE

VENGEANCE

"TEMPERED STEEL"
PART 3 OF 3

WRITER .....CHRIS COOPER
BREAKDOWNS .....REGGIE JONES
FINISHES.....FRED HARPER
LETTERS .....DIANA ALBERS
COLORS .....ASHLEY POSELLA

Buchanan and Vengeance find that something is more powerful than their hatred for each other, Psiphon!

TURBO

"CUTTING CLASS"
PART 1 OF 2

WRITER .....EVAN SKOLNICK
PENCILS .....GUY DORIAN
INKS .....JOHN STOKES
LETTERS .....DIANA ALBERS
COLORS .....STEVE WHITAKER

There's a dilemma in the dorm room when Turbo's powered suit causes some concern among the Pantheon.

FROM RICHARD AND MICHAEL

There are three file cabinets that sit, one on top of the other in the corner of our office. There are five wide shallow drawers in each, which can fit three stacks of original comic book art pages in each of those drawers. We call them flat files. But you could call them vaults of wonder. If you are a fan of comic art, (and we assume you are because you are reading this), then these files are a treasure chest, filled with something far more precious than gold. These drawers are filled with the wonder of imagination, the power of the written word and the magic results of artists and writers working together to give shape to the unimaginable. Those drawers are filled to overflowing with the efforts of dozens of individuals, who have chosen to make the production of comic books their profession. Individuals who imagine the wildest flights of the Silver Surfer, the wildest fights of Wolverine, and the unquenchable fires of the Midnight Sons. From the frozen slopes of K'un L'un, to the blue area of the moon, and from the steaming jungles of Conan's Hyborian Age to the muck-encrusted moodiness of the modern-day Man-Thing. Page upon page of the efforts of those who dream. These three file cabinets in the corner hold all this, and more...so much more.

Sitting and staring in wonder,
Richard and Michael

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

C/O 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

Chris Cooper turned out one of his best efforts with this Vengeance story. the villain was interesting, with the body of a little girl, and Vengeance is once again plagued with a moral dilemma about what to do when his attacker is actually innocent. I was surprised by that twist of Chris'. And the art of Jones and Harper hasn't looked better. I'll plead that you either collect stories or create new ones in a deluxe edition: the art in this installment alone proved how much the better color would serve Reggie and Fred. Their stuff just keeps getting better.

Finally there's Mace, and while Carl Potts' story isn't doing much for me, we have wonderful art by Barry Crain and Hilary Barta. I'd like to see Barry and Hilary try some other characters here in MCP because their style is clean and definitely a "plus".

The Walker cover was great (although certain anatomy on Turbo would inflame a number of Catwoman readers from what I hear...) while Phil Hugh Felix's Vengeance cover was disappointing. Anyway, keep up the great work and I hope I'm still able to convey solid ides to the editorial staff after writing month after month for over eighty issues. Now if only I could get that seventy-fifth missive printed here, I'd be going for a record...

Thanks for your time, see you in fourteen!

Joey Marchese
P.O. Box 802
Clark, NJ 07066

Congratulations, Joey (if that was number seventy-five). And, yes, every letter we receive conveys ideas to us about what the people who read MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS are thinking about.

Dear MCP,

#160 has the weirdest MCP story I ever read. I can't wait to find out about the Vengeance storyline. What is that girl? I mean she's got a green monster as a playmate!

You really need to find some better characters. Keep Vengeance, but put in mutants like the X-Men, Spidey and Daredevil. I just love the idea of creating new characters! Mace and Clan Destine fit in just fine.

What does #$@% mean? I see that in comics everywhere. There is no way to pronounce it. It's sort of like Prince's new name.

Until Apocalypse is destroyed, Make Mine Marvel!

Nathaniel Mash
Rt. 2 Box 752
West Jefferson, NC 28694

Nathaniel, thanks for your letter. You probably are not going to see the X-Men, Spidey or Daredevil in MCP, as they each have their own book or books as the case may be. That said, we will say that you can expect to see some mutants in MCP's future, and that's all we're saying for now.

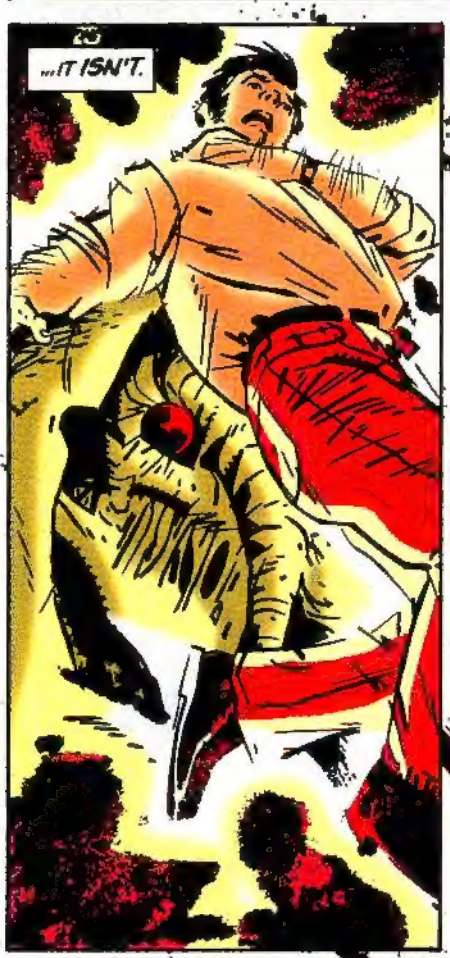
When you see #$@% written in a comic book or a comic strip in the newspaper, it is to signify that that speaker is cussing, using words that the Comics Code forbids, and that good taste and proper manners prevent us from printing.

THEY WERE MY FRIENDS.
SHE WAS MY LOVE.
I'M TED SALLIS, A MAN WHOSE MEMORY BEGAN THREE MONTHS AGO.
YOU GET BACK UP HERE, TED! YOU CAN'T DO NOTHIN' FOR GENEVIEVE AND YOU GOTTA STAY OUTTA THAT THING'S REACH...
...WHATEVER IT TOUCHES, IT BURNS!
...gen...
BUT YOU...

BEHOLD
THE MAN
PART TWO
...WHAT ARE YOU?
WHY AREN'T I SCREAMING IN TERROR AND RAGE AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE? WHY AREN'T I MAD WITH GRIEF AND SICK FOR VENGEANCE? AND WHY DO I FEEL...
...LIKE I ALREADY KNOW.
AAH! NO!...
"...ELIJAH, NO!"
TED, GET BACK HERE AN' HOLD ONTA MUTT! I CAN'T GET A GOLDARNED STRAIGHT SHOT WITH JUS' ONE HAND!

I'M COMING, ELIJAH! LOOK WHAT IT DID TO EDDIE AND PHIL AND GEN... OH GEN!
KILL IT, ELIJAH. KILL IT...
STEP ASIDE, TED! I CAN'T SHOOT THROUGH YA!

...BLOW IT AWA--AGH!
I ALWAYS IMAGINED TERROR WOULD BE COLD, LIKE ICE-WATER IN YOUR GUTS...

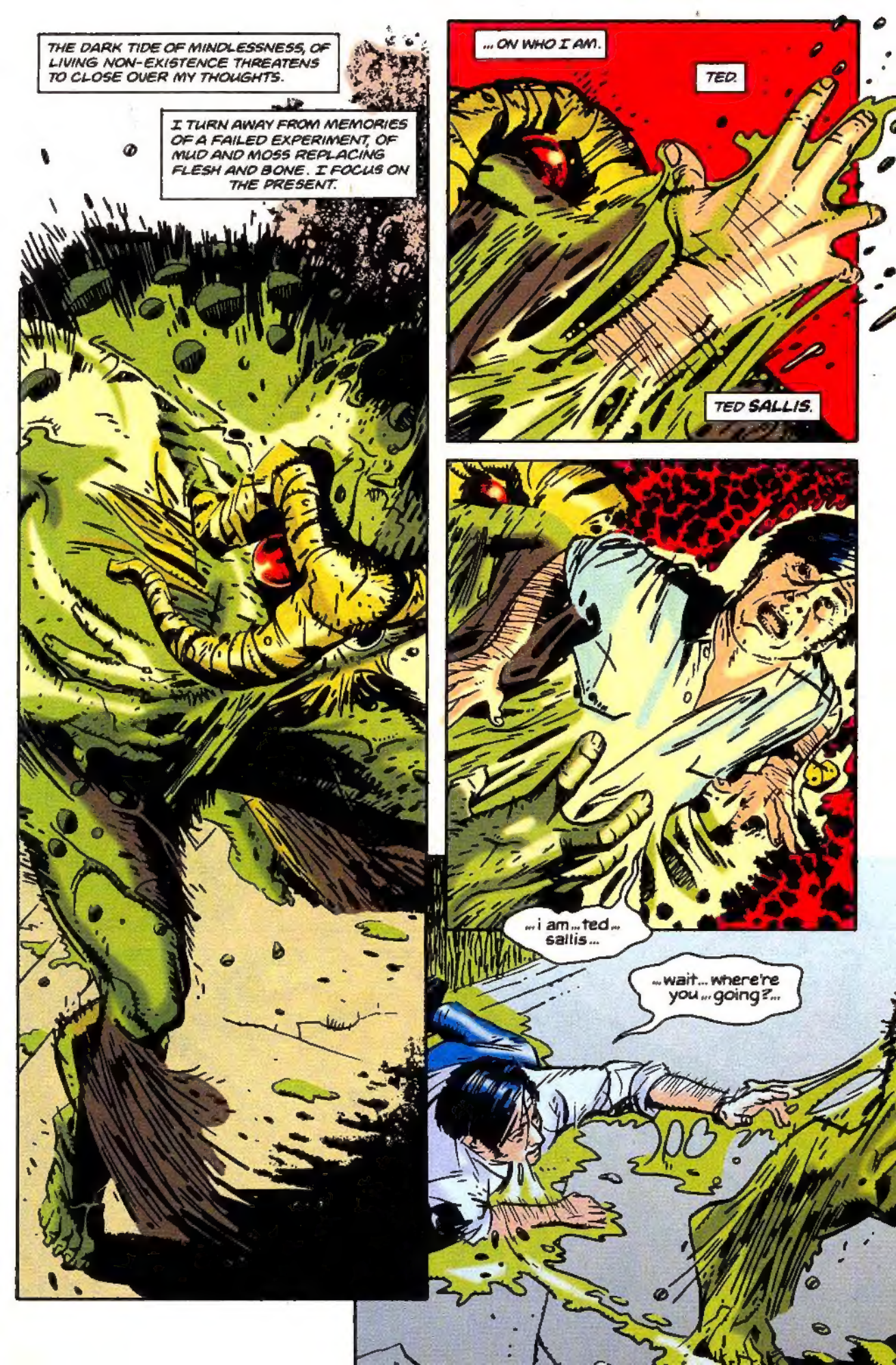

...IT ISN'T.

OH, LORD, TED, NOT YOU TOO! OH NO! OH--
NO, MUTT! C'MERE...

...MUTT!
HE WAS JUST A DOG, GOLDARN YOU! JUST A MUTT!
I'M GONNA BLOW YOUR BRAINS INTO THE NEXT COUNTY!
...no... elijah... i know...
...i know what it is...
NO! YOU'VE BEEN RELOADING THIS RIFLE BY TOUCH FER THE LAST TWENTY YEARS.
DON'T GO SCREWIN' IT UP NOW, YOU STUPID...
...old man.

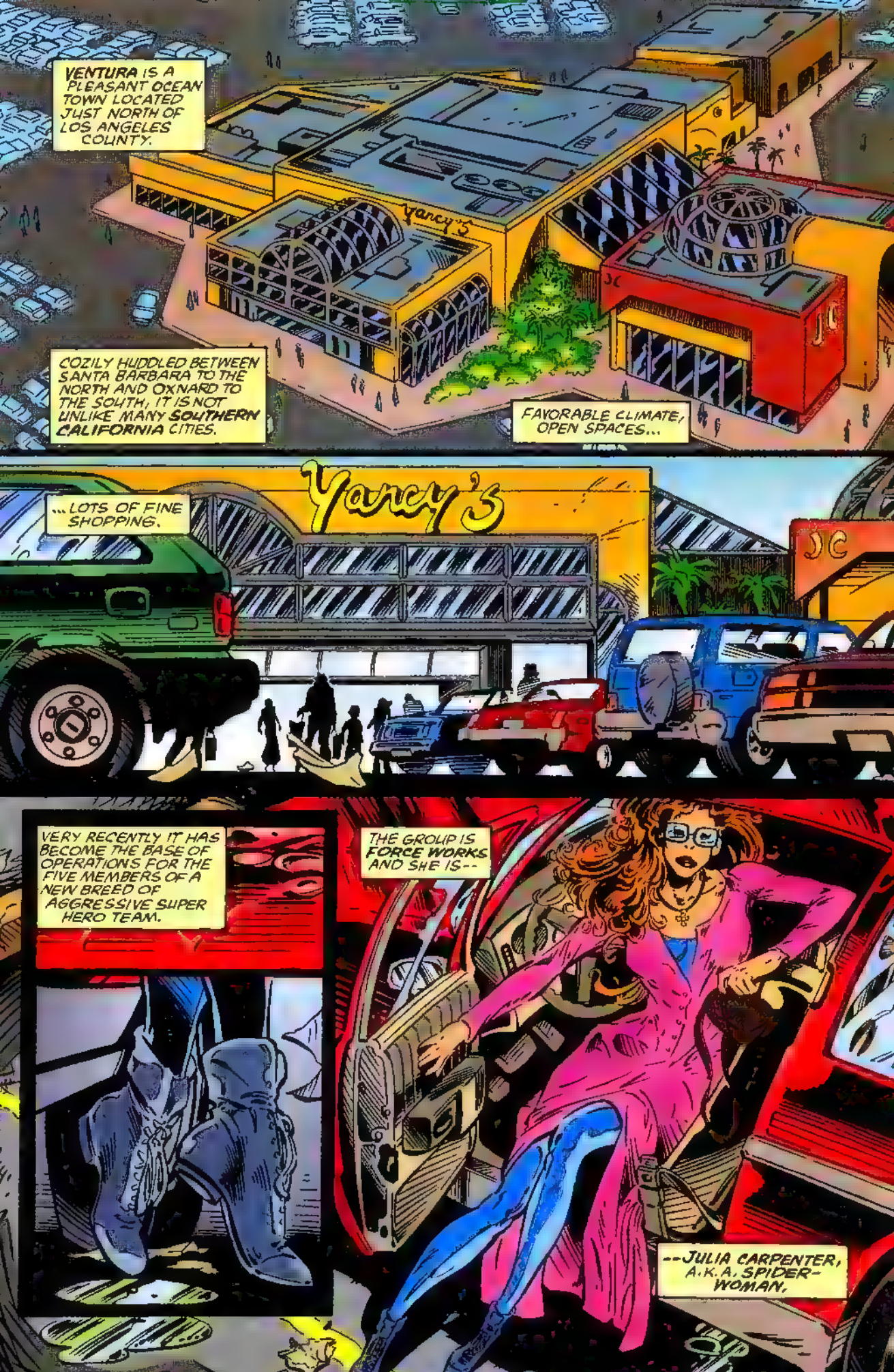
ELIJAH, RUN! YOU CAN'T HURT IT!
I KNOW WHAT IT IS!
I KNOW!
NNNOOOOO!!
YOU COULD HAVE LEFT THESE PEOPLE ALONE. IT'S ME YOU WANT, YOU MINDLESS HEAP OF...
OH, SHOOT.
AS THE MONSTER'S BULK YIELDS, DRAWING ME INTO ITS MINDLESS EMBRACE, A NUMBNESS RUNS THROUGH ME LIKE A BLACK TIDE.
I AM ENGULFED... DRAWN DEEPER... STRUGGLING... GASPING...

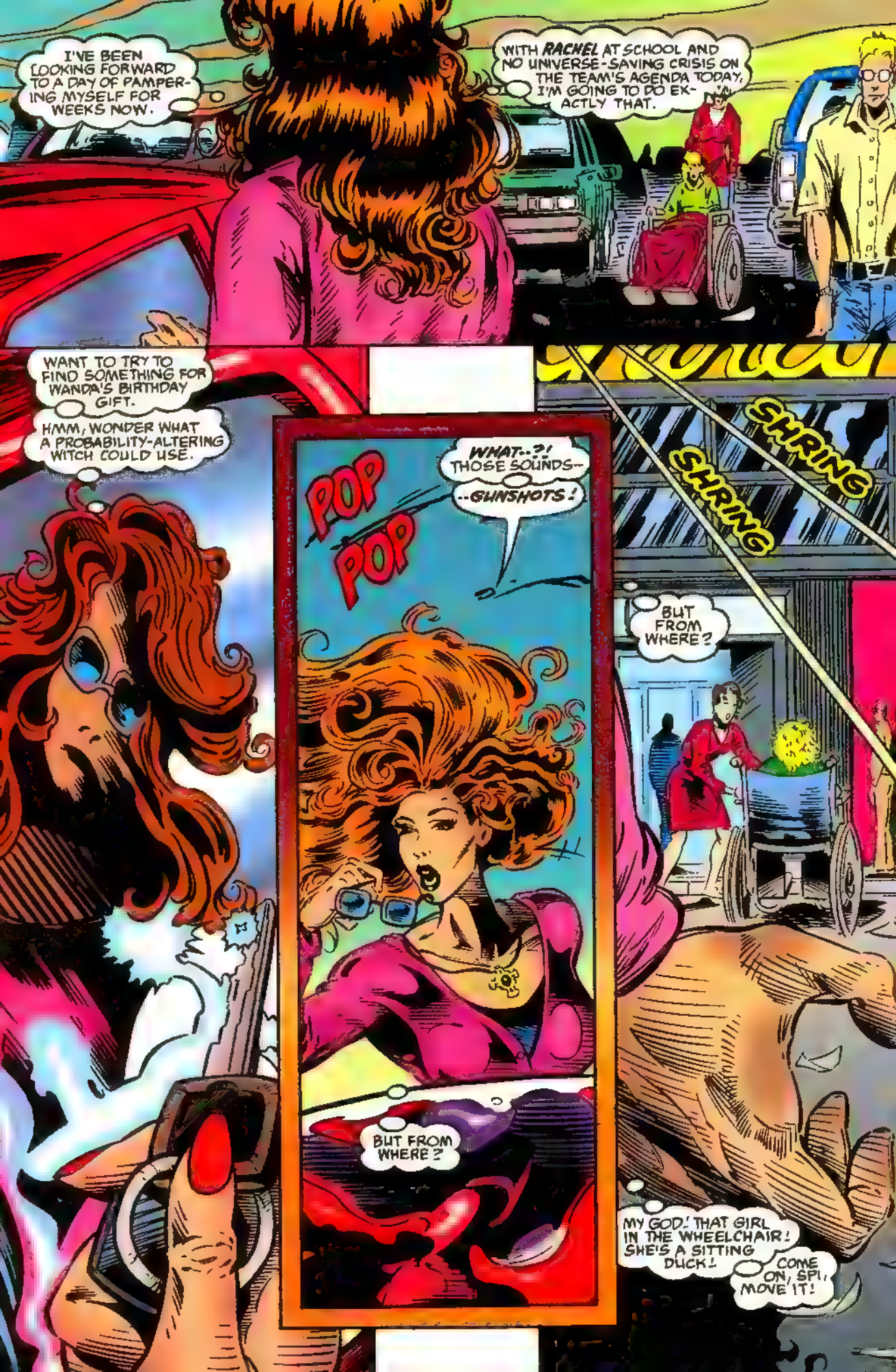
... DROWNING.
WITHOUT A MIND TO CONTAIN AND ORGANIZE THEM, PAST SENSATIONS — SENSE — MEMORIES — DRIFT AIMLESSLY THROUGHOUT THE CREATURE'S PSYCHIC VOID...
...MY MIND RECEIVES THEM, GIVES THEM FORM, STRUCTURE. A LIFE FLASHES BEFORE MY EYES.
MY LIFE.
A LIFE OF POINTLESS, MINDLESS WANDERING, INTERRUPTED BY A BROADCAST OF INTENSE EMOTIONAL POWER.
FRUSTRATION, ANGER, CREATIVITY HELD IN CHECK FOR YEARS. UNTIL NOW...
...THE MOMENT OF RELEASE.
STUNNED BY THE RETURN OF COGNITION, BY THE COMPETING VOICES OF RE-AWAKENED MENTAL PROCESSES, I BELIEVED MY PATH TO BE RANDOM...
...MY ARRIVAL SIMPLY A MATTER OF GOOD LUCK.


THE DARK TIDE OF MINDLESSNESS, OF LIVING NON-EXISTENCE THREATENS TO CLOSE OVER MY THOUGHTS.
I TURN AWAY FROM MEMORIES OF A FAILED EXPERIMENT, OF MUD AND MOSS REPLACING FLESH AND BONE. I FOCUS ON THE PRESENT.
... ON WHO I AM.
TED.
TED SALLIS.
...i am... ted... sallis...
...wait... where're you... going?...

...no... stop... it's me you want... remember?...
...beat you once... i'll do it again...
...c'mere...
THIS IS YOUR FAULT, SALLIS. THE YEARS WE WAITED AND YOU COME AND SPOIL IT ALL. IT'S YOUR FAULT.
REMEMBER THAT.
NO!!

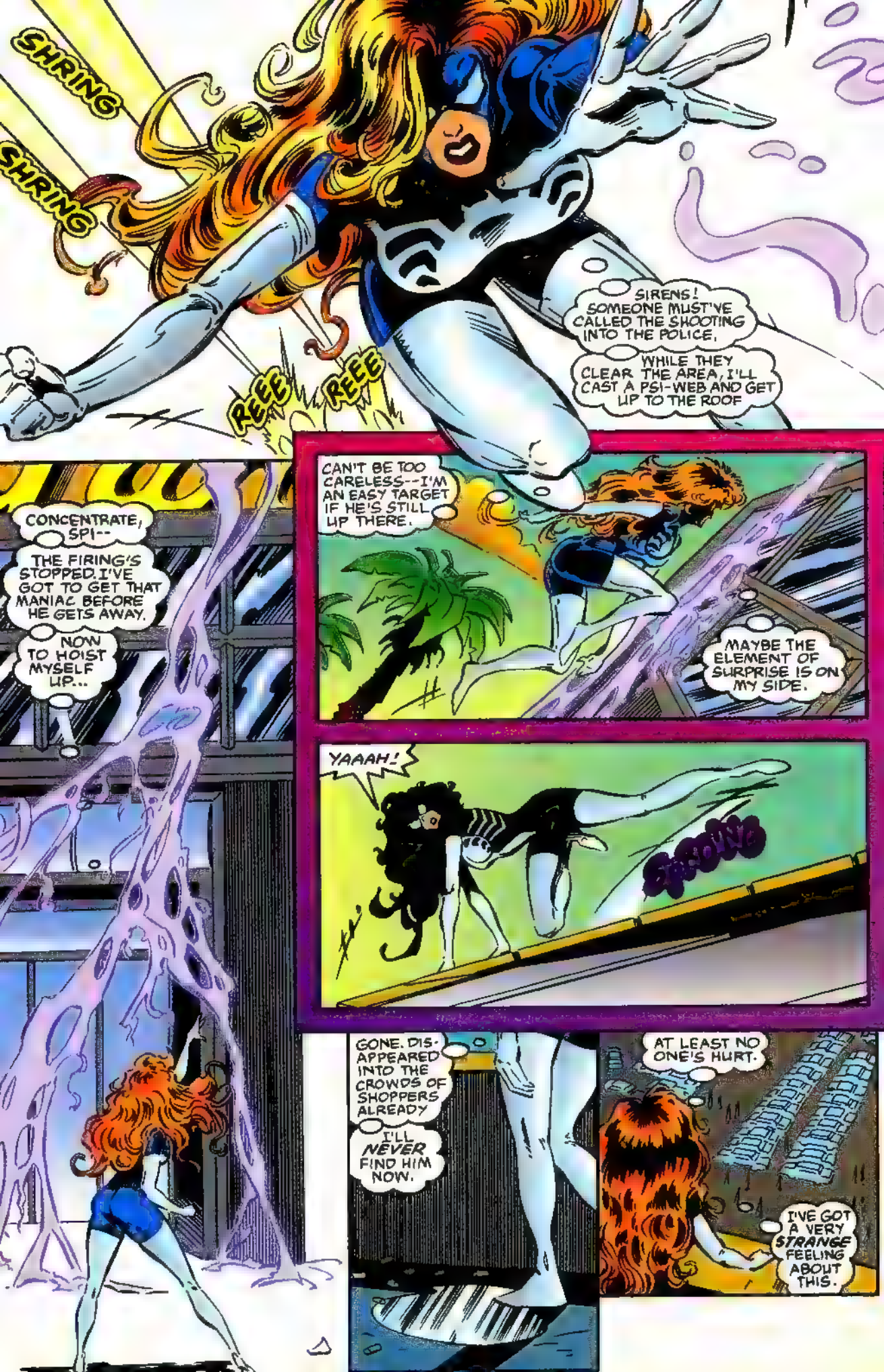
NEXT: DEUS EX...

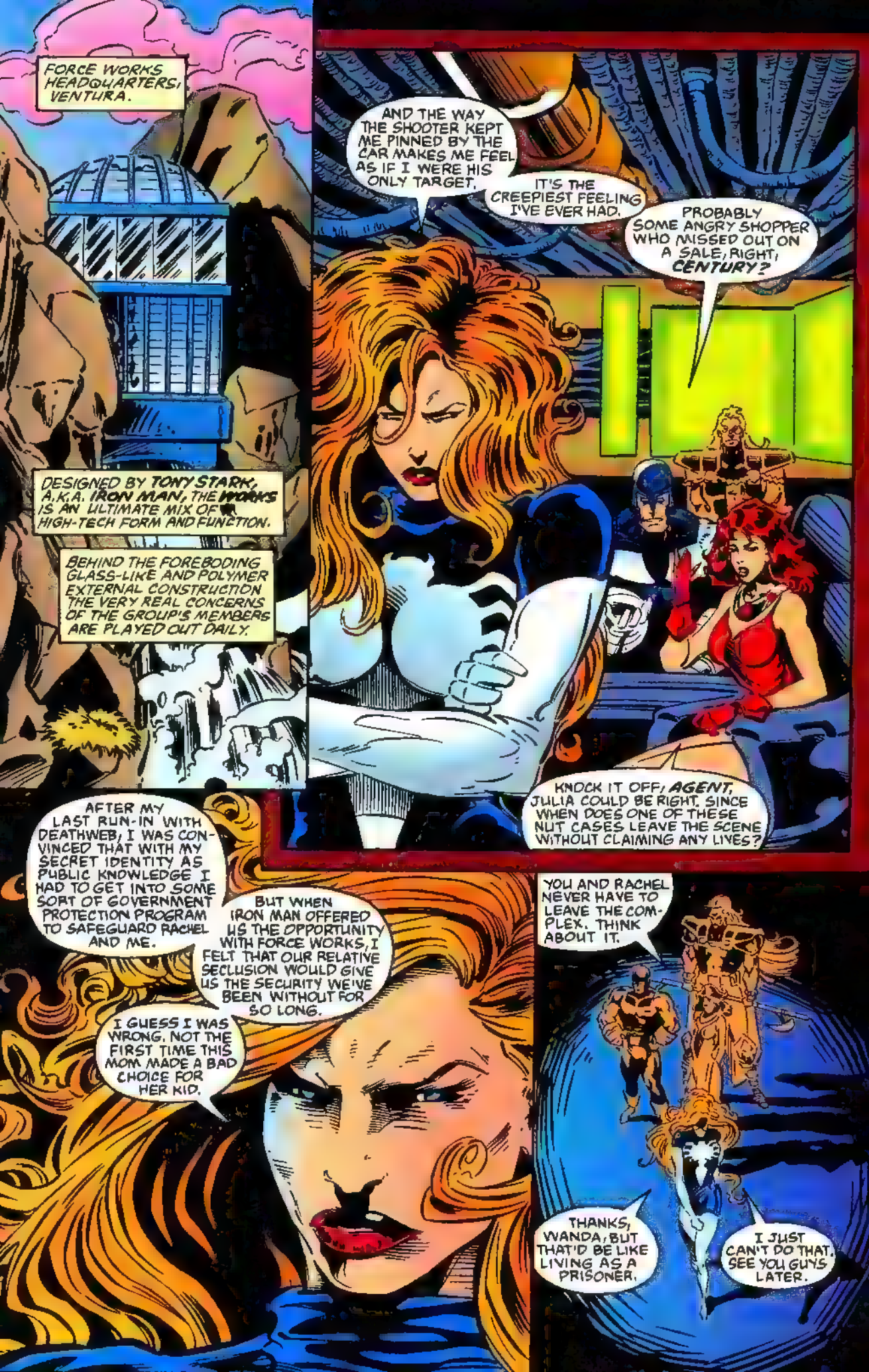

VENTURA IS A PLEASANT OCEAN TOWN LOCATED JUST NORTH OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY.
Yancy's
JC
COZILY HUDDLED BETWEEN SANTA BARBARA TO THE NORTH AND OXNARD TO THE SOUTH, IT IS NOT UNLIKE MANY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CITIES.
FAVORABLE CLIMATE, OPEN SPACES...
...LOTS OF FINE SHOPPING.
Yancy's
JC
VERY RECENTLY IT HAS BECOME THE BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR THE FIVE MEMBERS OF A NEW BREED OF AGGRESSIVE SUPER HERO TEAM.
THE GROUP IS FORCE WORKS AND SHE IS--
--JULIA CARPENTER, A.K.A. SPIDER-WOMAN.


I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO A DAY OF PAMPERING MYSELF FOR WEEKS NOW.
WITH RACHEL AT SCHOOL AND NO UNIVERSE-SAVING CRISIS ON THE TEAM'S AGENDA TODAY, I'M GOING TO DO EXACTLY THAT.
WANT TO TRY TO FIND SOMETHING FOR WANDA'S BIRTHDAY GIFT.
HMM, WONDER WHAT A PROBABILITY-ALTERING WITCH COULD USE.
POP
POP
WHAT--?! THOSE SOUNDS--
--GUNSHOTS!
BUT FROM WHERE?
SHRING
SHRING
BUT FROM WHERE?
MY GOD! THAT GIRL IN THE WHEELCHAIR! SHE'S A SITTING DUCK!
COME ON, SPI, MOVE IT!

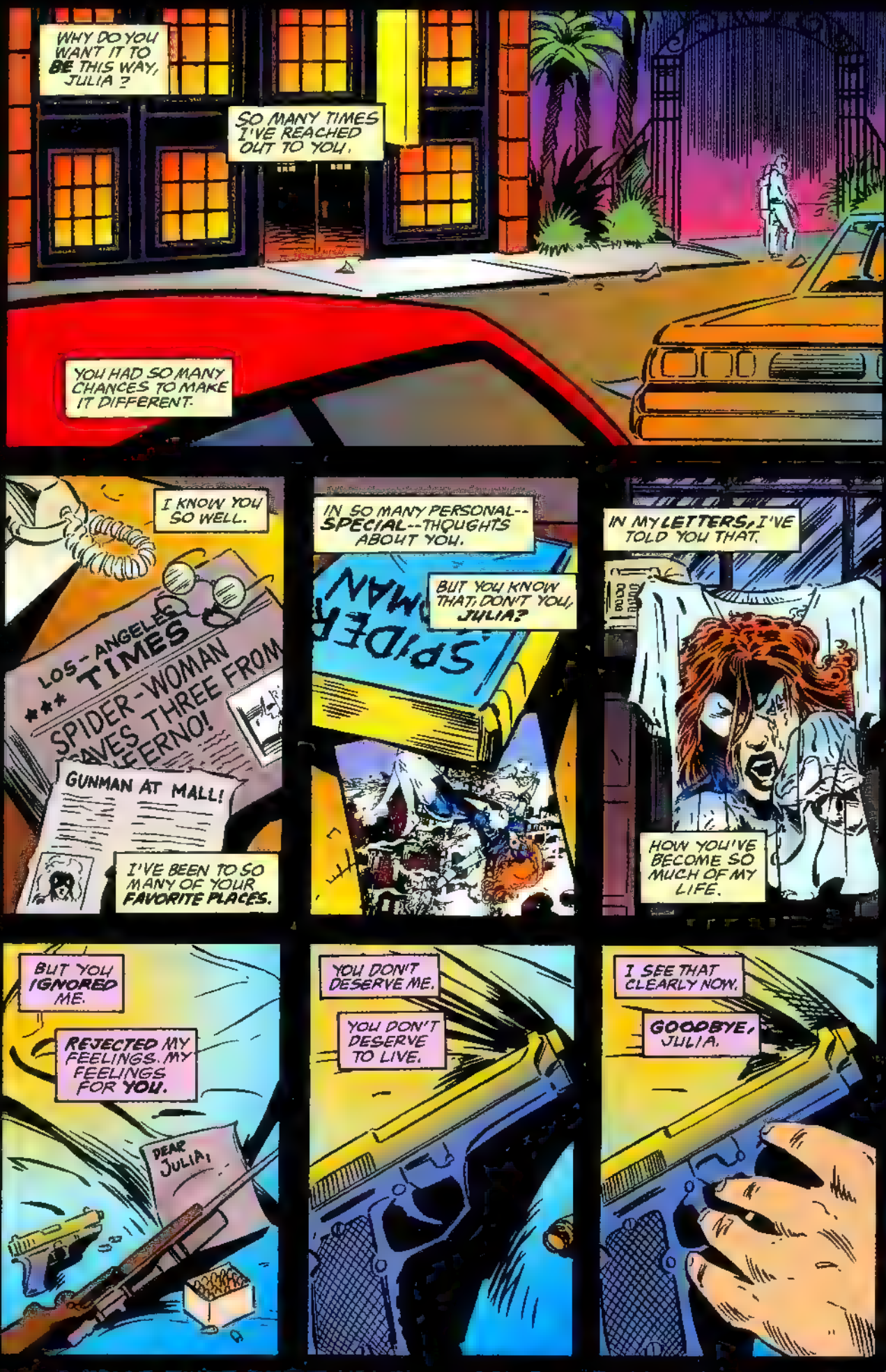
"NOW!"
THEY'RE FROZEN WITH FEAR-- JUST STANDING THERE!
HEADS UP, YOU TWO!
THE GREAT AMERICAN MALL SHOOTOUT
SHRING
OH, DEAR GOD!
SHRING
SPIDER-WOMAN!
PING
I DON'T CARE, LADY, OUT OF MY WAY!
MOM, WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?

OOOMF!
BEHIND THIS PARKED CAR!
STAY DOWN!
SHRING
PING
MOM!
AS LONG AS THE SHOTS CONTINUE, WE'RE PINNED--
--AND OTHERS COULD GET HIT WHILE I WAIT THIS OUT.
GOT TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM.
SHRING
PING
SHREE
SHREE
PING
PING
HURRY UP, YOU'LL HAVE MORE COVERAGE HERE!
I'M GOING UP!
SWANG
THERE! DIRECTLY OVERHEAD--!
IF I CAN GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE STORE'S ENTRANCE.
PING


SHRING
SHRING
REEE
REEE
SIRENS! SOMEONE MUST'VE CALLED THE SHOOTING INTO THE POLICE.
WHILE THEY CLEAR THE AREA, I'LL CAST A PSI-WEB AND GET UP TO THE ROOF
CONCENTRATE, SPI--
THE FIRING'S STOPPED. I'VE GOT TO GET THAT MANIAC BEFORE HE GETS AWAY.
NOW TO HOIST MYSELF UP...
CAN'T BE TOO CARELESS--I'M AN EASY TARGET IF HE'S STILL UP THERE.
MAYBE THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE IS ON MY SIDE.
YAAAH!
SPROING
GONE. DISAPPEARED INTO THE CROWDS OF SHOPPERS ALREADY
I'LL NEVER FIND HIM NOW.
AT LEAST NO ONE'S HURT.
I'VE GOT A VERY STRANGE FEELING ABOUT THIS.


FORCE WORKS HEADQUARTERS, VENTURA.
DESIGNED BY TONY STARK, A.K.A. IRON MAN, THE WORKS IS AN ULTIMATE MIX OF HIGH-TECH FORM AND FUNCTION.
BEHIND THE FOREBODING GLASS-LIKE AND POLYMER EXTERNAL CONSTRUCTION THE VERY REAL CONCERNS OF THE GROUP'S MEMBERS ARE PLAYED OUT DAILY.
AND THE WAY THE SHOOTER KEPT ME PINNED BY THE CAR MAKES ME FEEL AS IF I WERE HIS ONLY TARGET.
IT'S THE CREEPIEST FEELING I'VE EVER HAD.
PROBABLY SOME ANGRY SHOPPER WHO MISSED OUT ON A SALE, RIGHT, CENTURY?
KNOCK IT OFF, AGENT, JULIA COULD BE RIGHT. SINCE WHEN DOES ONE OF THESE NUT CASES LEAVE THE SCENE WITHOUT CLAIMING ANY LIVES?
AFTER MY LAST RUN-IN WITH DEATHWEB, I WAS CONVINCED THAT WITH MY SECRET IDENTITY AS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE I HAD TO GET INTO SOME SORT OF GOVERNMENT PROTECTION PROGRAM TO SAFEGUARD RACHEL AND ME.
BUT WHEN IRON MAN OFFERED US THE OPPORTUNITY WITH FORCE WORKS, I FELT THAT OUR RELATIVE SECLUSION WOULD GIVE US THE SECURITY WE'VE BEEN WITHOUT FOR SO LONG.
I GUESS I WAS WRONG. NOT THE FIRST TIME THIS MOM MADE A BAD CHOICE FOR HER KID.
YOU AND RACHEL NEVER HAVE TO LEAVE THE COMPLEX. THINK ABOUT IT.
THANKS, WANDA, BUT THAT'D BE LIKE LIVING AS A PRISONER.
I JUST CAN'T DO THAT. SEE YOU GUYS LATER.

EN ROUTE TO HER ROOM.
HEY, SPI, WAIT UP! I HAVE A TON OF FANMAIL FOR YOU!
KIDS, PARENTS, GRAND-PARENTS...
...EVEN POTENTIAL BOYFRIENDS!
ABOUT A DOZEN FROM ONE GUY ALONE. HEAVY STUFF. I ENVY YOU!
THEY'RE ALL SO SWEET, AMANDA.
THIS LITTLE GIRL SAYS HER GRANDMA IS A FAN. ANOTHER SAYS HE'S MY BIGGEST FAN--THE ONLY ONE WHO CARES.
ND HERE'S RAWING I
SOME-ONE EVEN SENT A DRAWING OF ME.
HOW'S THIS FOR A PROPOSAL: "I WANT TO BE WITH YOU, JULIA. PLEASE DON'T IGNORE ME..."
VERY FLATTERING TO A SINGLE MOTHER.
WITH MY LUCK THIS MYSTERY PARAMOUR PROBABLY HAS LOOKS TO DIE FOR.
LATER, AMANDA.


WHY DO YOU WANT IT TO BE THIS WAY, JULIA ?
SO MANY TIMES I'VE REACHED OUT TO YOU.
YOU HAD SO MANY CHANCES TO MAKE IT DIFFERENT.
I KNOW YOU SO WELL.
LOS-ANGELES TIMES
SPIDER-WOMAN SAVES THREE FROM INFERNO!
GUNMAN AT MALL!
I'VE BEEN TO SO MANY OF YOUR FAVORITE PLACES.
IN SO MANY PERSONAL--SPECIAL--THOUGHTS ABOUT YOU.
BUT YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU, JULIA?
IN MY LETTERS, I'VE TOLD YOU THAT.
HOW YOU'VE BECOME SO MUCH OF MY LIFE.
BUT YOU IGNORED ME.
REJECTED MY FEELINGS. MY FEELINGS FOR YOU.
DEAR JULIA,
YOU DON'T DESERVE ME.
YOU DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE.
I SEE THAT CLEARLY NOW.
GOODBYE, JULIA.

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THE PENTAGON CITY MALL, WASHINGTON, D.C.--THE WORST THING ABOUT SHOPPING HERE ISN'T THE CROWDS ANYMORE...
VENGEANCE IN
"TEMPERED STEEL"
I REALLY MUST THANK YOU, VENGEANCE!
IF NOT FOR MS. TAYLOR HERE...
...YOU AND MR. BUCHANAN PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEAT EACH OTHER INTO BLOODY PULPS!
AS IT IS, YOUR MUTUAL HATRED GAVE ME PLENTY OF DARK, VIOLENT EMOTIONS TO FEED ON.

THESE DAYS, THE MALL HAS BIGGER PROBLEMS!

WITH THE POWER YOU'VE GIVEN ME, I'LL BRING THE CAPITAL TO ITS KNEES!

BUCHANAN, YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR LETTING THIS LUNATIC LOOSE!

ME?!? IT'S YOUR OBSESSION WITH VENGEANCE THAT HE FINDS SO TASTY!

QUIT SQUABBLING TILL AFTER THE CRISIS IS PAST! WE'VE GOT TO TAKE PSIPHON DOWN!

YOU'RE RIGHT, TAYLOR. GET THE SHOPPERS TO SAFETY WHILE I...GO GET HELP!

HAD TO GET OUT OF SIGHT... SO I COULD DO THIS!

BY TURNING HUMAN INTO BADLING -- LIKE I DID THE FIRST TIME WE FOUGHT*--I'LL DEPRIVE PSIPHON OF HIS SOURCE OF...

HUH? IT DIDN'T WORK!

HA-HA HA-HA

BLAM BLAM BLAM

*IN MCP #147-148. --RICHARD

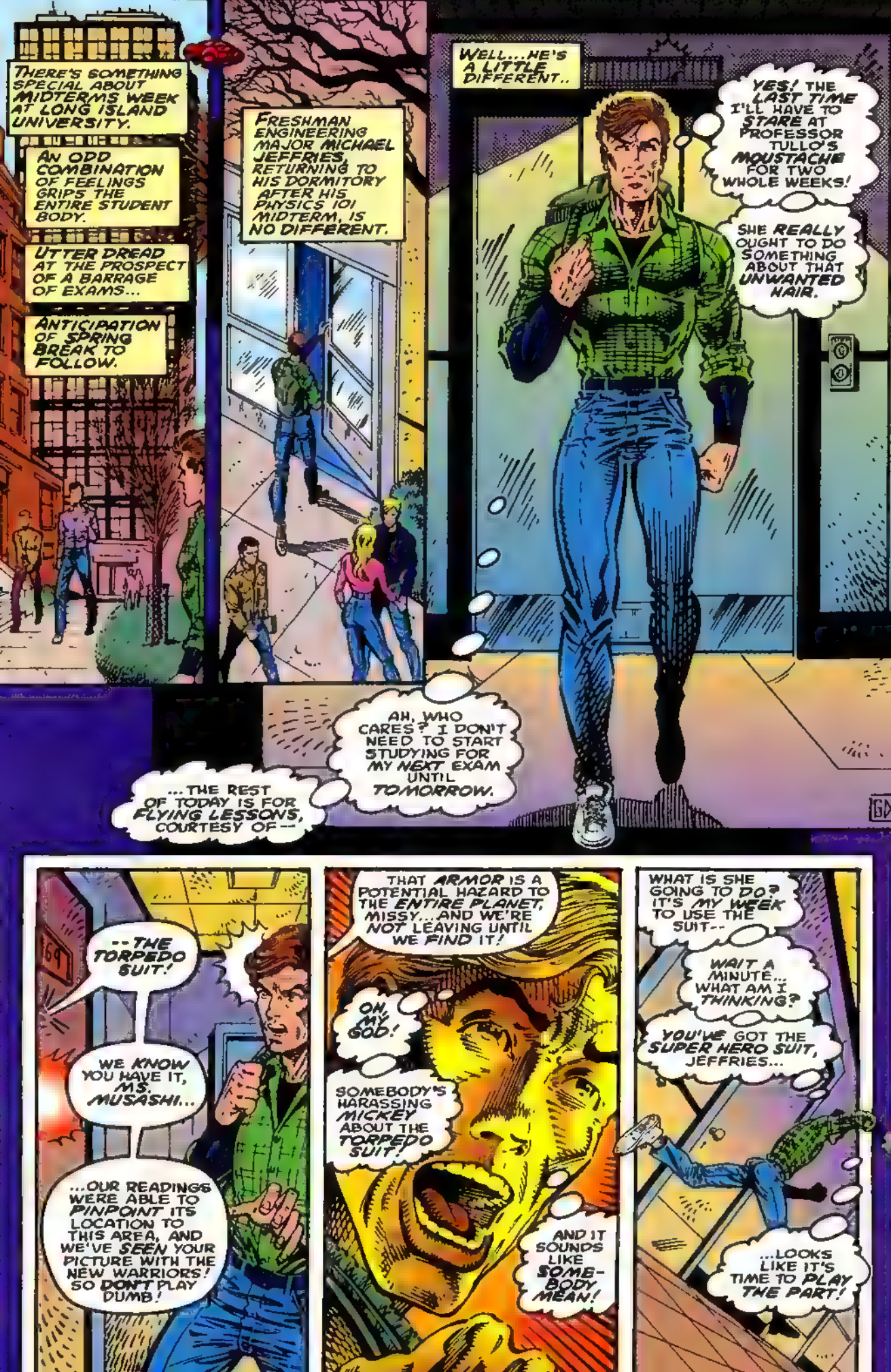
PSIPHON, I'M ORDERING YOU TO SURRENDER!
OH NO! NOT THE BIG, BAD ANTI-MYSTICAL GUN! WHY, I'D ALMOST BE SCARED, BUCHANAN...
...IF I WERE MYSTICAL! BUT I'M NOT, SO--
PSIPHON...
...STICK IT IN YOUR EYE.
AAARGH!
MY EYES...
NOW, WHILE HE'S BLINDED, DEPLOY YOURSELVES AS WE PLANNED!
YES, MA'AM!
OH, PSIPHON--
--PEEKABOO!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? BULLETS?!? LIKE THEY CAN HURT ME??
BLAM BLAM BLAM
NOT YOU, EXACTLY...
...YOUR HYPERSENSITIVE TENDRILS.
MY-- YEEAAARGH!!

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!! YOU'LL ALL PAY!!
NICE WORK.
THOSE TWO-- BUCHANAN AND TAYLOR --ARE ACTUALLY MAKING SOME HEADWAY AGAINST THAT MANIAC.
THEY'D MAKE WORTHY ADDITIONS TO MY TEAM--
--EXCEPT THEY'RE HOPELESSLY OUTMATCHED, AND THEY WON'T SURVIVE MUCH LONGER WITHOUT SOME...
...HELP...
BOONE, SWING THE CHOPPER BACK AROUND! THAT THING'S BACK, AND I WANT A CLOSER LOOK!
HOLY--! WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT?!
PSIPHON'S WORST NIGHTMARE!!
ENOUGH ANGST. ENOUGH STRUGGLING TO DENY ALL THAT I AM!
IF NOT BEING VENGEANCE ISN'T GOING TO STOP YOU, THEN BEING VENGEANCE WILL HAVE TO DO--
--BECAUSE I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!!

WHAT A CONVOLUTED BATTLE CRY--AND RATHER HOLLOW DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU AND YOUR "FRIEND," BUCHANAN, GAVE ME SO MUCH HATRED TO STORE UP--
UUNGH!
--THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE WHETHER I FEED OFF YOUR VIOLENT EMOTIONS NOW VENGEANCE, OR NOT! I CAN STILL DESTROY YOU!!
SAM--WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
NOT "WE," TAYLOR--ME. I GOT VENGEANCE INTO THIS MESS; I'VE GOT TO GET HIM OUT, EH?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS WEAPON, BUT... THINK I JUST REVERSED ITS POLARITY.
IF I'M RIGHT IT'LL BOOST VENGEANCE'S STRENGTH. IF I'M WRONG--
--IT'LL KILL HIM.
DO YOU TRUST ME?
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT
VENGEANCE --IF WE DON'T PUT ASIDE OUR DIFFERENCES, WE'RE ALL DEAD!
FRZAAAAK
DO IT!

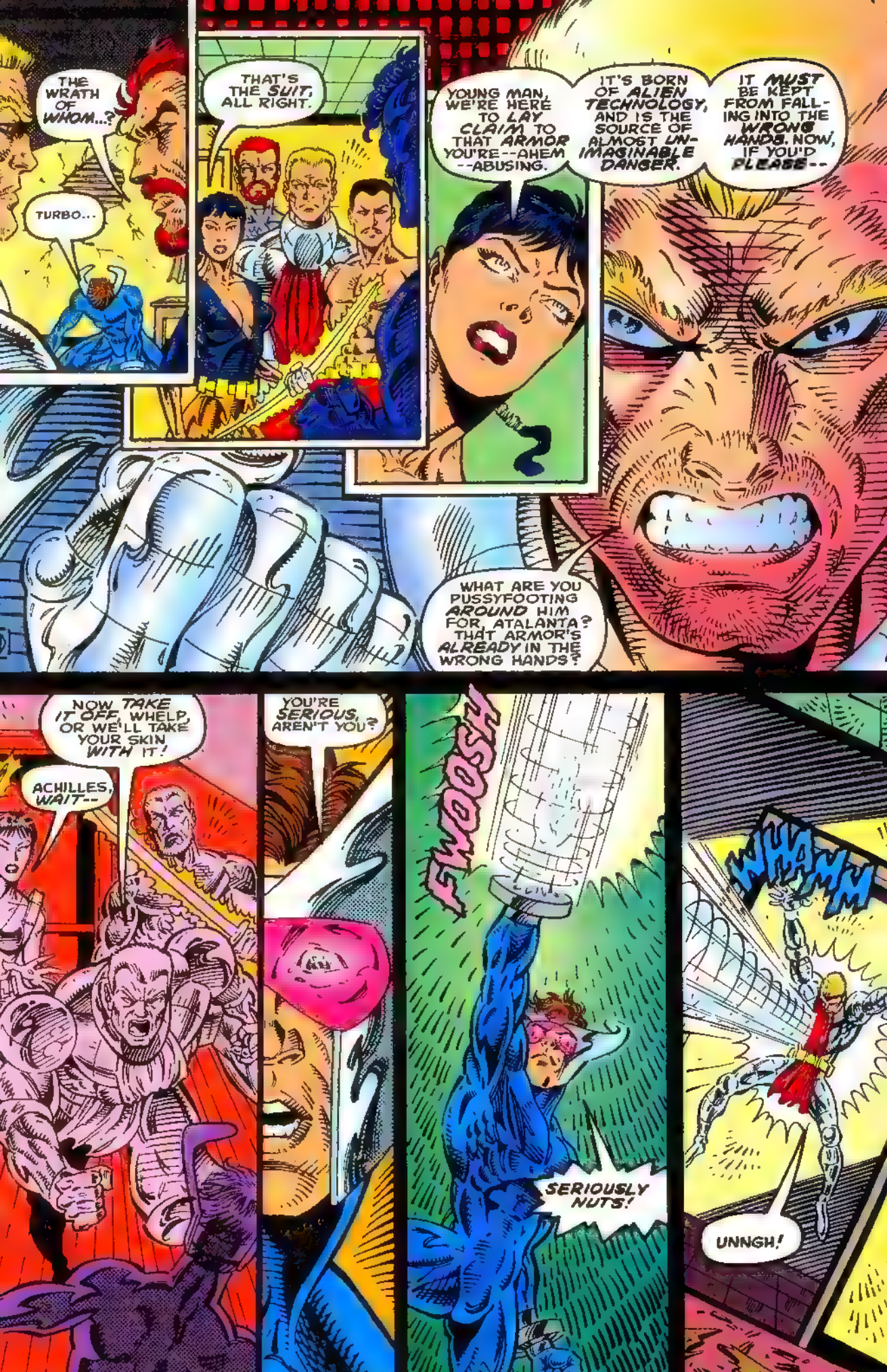
WHAM
KRAK
NO!
YOU'RE FINISHED, PSIPHON!
THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO DRAW STRENGTH FROM ANYMORE!
KRUM
UUNGh!
H-HOW CAN THIS BE?? IF YOUR DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE IS MAKING YOU STRONGER...
...IT SHOULD BE MAKING ME STRONGER, TOO! BUT I'M GETTING WEAKER!
BECAUSE IT'S NOT VENGEANCE THAT'S MAKING ME STRONGER..
...IT'S THE NEED FOR JUSTICE!
RRRRIP

I HAVE A FEELING THAT BY NOT GIVING IN TO VENGEANCE-- BY LETTING YOU LIVE, IN PRISON-- MAYBE I'M MAKING YOU WEAKER STILL.
OUT OF VENGEANCE, I TRIED TO KILL YOU THE LAST TIME I DEFEATED YOU-- AND YOU ONLY CAME BACK STRONGER THIS TIME
YOU'RE A PUZZLE, BUCHANAN--YOU NEARLY GOT ME KILLED, BUT YOU HELPED SAVE ME IN THE END.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HELPED--
--WHETHER I ACTUALLY DID SOMETHING USEFUL TO THE GUN...
...OR WHETHER, JUST AS OUR HATRED FED PSIPHON'S POWER, OUR COOPERATION SOMEHOW MANAGED TO DRAIN HIM. IN EITHER CASE...
...LET'S HOPE WE KEEP COOPERATING.
VENGEANCE, WAIT! MY FRIEND, BADILINO IS... MISSING I'M CONCERNED ABOUT HIM.
I'LL FIND BADILINO.
I PROMISE YOU, AND MOST OF ALL, I PROMISE MYSELF--
--THAT'S ONE MAN I'VE GOT TO FIND.
END.


There's something special about MIDTERMS WEEK at LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY.
An odd combination of feelings grips the entire student body.
Utter dread at the prospect of a barrage of exams...
Anticipation of SPRING BREAK to follow.
Freshman engineering major MICHAEL JEFFRIES, returning to his dormitory after his physics 101 midterm, is no different.
Well... he's a little different..
YES! THE LAST TIME I'LL HAVE TO STARE AT PROFESSOR TULLO'S MOUSTACHE FOR TWO WHOLE WEEKS!
SHE REALLY OUGHT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT UNWANTED HAIR.
AH, WHO CARES? I DON'T NEED TO START STUDYING FOR MY NEXT EXAM UNTIL TOMORROW.
...THE REST OF TODAY IS FOR FLYING LESSONS, COURTESY OF--
--THE TORPEDO SUIT!
WE KNOW YOU HAVE IT, MS. MUSASHI...
...OUR READINGS WERE ABLE TO PINPOINT ITS LOCATION TO THIS AREA, AND WE'VE SEEN YOUR PICTURE WITH THE NEW WARRIORS! SO DON'T PLAY DUMB!
THAT ARMOR IS A POTENTIAL HAZARD TO THE ENTIRE PLANET, MISSY... AND WE'RE NOT LEAVING UNTIL WE FIND IT!
OH, MY GOD!
SOMEBODY'S HARASSING MICKEY ABOUT THE TORPEDO SUIT!
AND IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY MEAN!
WHAT IS SHE GOING TO DO? IT'S MY WEEK TO USE THE SUIT--
WAIT A MINUTE... WHAT AM I THINKING?
YOU'VE GOT THE SUPER HERO SUIT, JEFFRIES...
...LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME TO PLAY THE PART!

MINUTES LATER...
--NO, I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
AND I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE JUST BARGING INTO MY DORM ROOM UNINVITED!
ARE YOU COPS OR SOMETHING? I WANT TO SEE SOME KIND OF I.D. BEFORE I SAY ANYTHING ELSE!
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO ACCUSE ME OF STEALING SOME KIND OF SUPER-ARMOR, ANYWAY?
NO, WE'RE NOT "COPS"...
...BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'RE MORE THAN QUALIFIED TO HANDLE THIS SITUATION.
NOW, FOR THE LAST TIME... WHERE IS THE TORPEDO ARMOR?
CUTTING CLASS

LEAVE HER ALONE, OR FACE THE WRATH OF--
KRAKK
--TURRRRRGH!
WHMP


THE WRATH OF WHOM..?
TURBO...
THAT'S THE SUIT, ALL RIGHT.
YOUNG MAN, WE'RE HERE TO LAY CLAIM TO THAT ARMOR YOU'RE--AHEM --ABUSING.
IT'S BORN OF ALIEN TECHNOLOGY, AND IS THE SOURCE OF ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE DANGER.
IT MUST BE KEPT FROM FALLING INTO THE WRONG HANDS. NOW, IF YOU'D PLEASE--
WHAT ARE YOU PUSSYFOOTING AROUND HIM FOR, ATALANTA? THAT ARMOR'S ALREADY IN THE WRONG HANDS?
NOW TAKE IT OFF, WHELP, OR WE'LL TAKE YOUR SKIN WITH IT!
ACHILLES, WAIT--
YOU'RE SERIOUS, AREN'T YOU?
FWOOSH!
SERIOUSLY NUTS!
WHAMM
UNNGH!

UH-OH. I DIDN'T MEAN--
KRABAM!
SHRAAZP!
OBOY
WE TRIED THIS THE EASY WAY.
NOW STRIP.

EAT MY ARMORED SHORTS!
IF YOU INSIST...
SHRAKK SHRAK SHRAKK
WHAT IN THE--
MY ENERGY ARROWS...
...SOMEHOW DISPERSED AND SPRAYED OUT BEHIND HIM?
YOU... DIDN'T KNOW THAT WOULD HAPPEN?
YOU TRIED TO KILL ME!
AAAAAAA!!
C'MON, MISS-- WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
POOOSH

QUICK-- TO THE AIRSHIP!
WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY TO KEEP UP WITH THAT ARMOR!
HOLY...
MAYBE WE DON'T HAVE TO BOTHER, ATALANTA.
AFTER ALL, HE SORTA KICKED ACHILLES' BUTT. MAYBE--
FORGET IT, HECTOR.
OUR FRIEND "TURBO" WILL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT...
...MUCH BETTER!

WHOOA... WHOOOOAA...
UMMF-- MY STOMACH-- MIKE, YOU SHOULD'VE PRACTICED FLYING MORE!
I HAVE BEEN! WHOOA...
MIKE!
WATCH OUT FOR THE TREE!
WHICH ONE?!
WHAKSH
WRUSSH
KRAKK
POP
SNAPT
KSHH
WHUMP!
TO BE CONCLUDED!

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